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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

DEFINES COMMUNIST FREEDOM OF PRESS;
KUANG-CHOU SHOWS DEMAND FOR HONG KONG PAPERS

SAYS PRESS MUST FAVOR NEW REGIME -- Wen-hui Pao, 17 - 18 Jan 50

Kuang-chou (Kuo-hsin NA) -- During the more than 2 months since the liberation of Kuang-chou, the News Publication Section of the Kuang-chou Military Control Commission has taken over the following newspapers, the Chung-yang Jih-pao, Ta-kung Pao, Hsi-nan Jih-pao, Huan-ch'iu Jih-pao, Ch'ien-feng Jih-pao, Cheng-hua Jih-pao, and Shang Pao. It has closed three newspapers, Hsing Pao, Yueh Pao, and Lao-kung Hsin-wen Pao. It has penalized the Yueh-hua Pao, by ordering its suspension for one half-month; it has taken over entirely the Central News Agency and exercises supervision over 67 news agencies including the Sheng-li, Li-chih, and others.

Among the reasons for taking over or closing some newspapers and news agencies is the fact that they were really being operated, under new names, by politically hostile men of the old regime. Often they were financed with bureaucratic capital, or were directed by KMT special agents. They were all inimical to the interests of the party, the people's government, and the people as a whole, and were engaged in unscrupulously and assiduously spreading lies and false rumors.

In view of these conditions, the people's government in Kuang-chou has adopted a judicious attitude and a carefully worked out course of action. Papers which apply for registration and cannot be taken over by the government, are investigated carefully and allowed to publish provisionally with the hope that they will show sincerity and strive to serve the interests of the people. If an editor merely adopts a new outer garment labelled "progress" or democracy, but inside remains the same old reactionary, there is no choice but to punish the paper or suppress it. There is a limit to leniency; the interests of the people must not be sacrificed.

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The principle of "punishment for the worst offenders, no prosecution of victims of coercion, rewards to the meritorious" may be applied to the newspaper profession. If journalists wish sincerely to follow what is right, they must manifest it in tangible ways, start at the beginning to learn Communist doctrine, and work for the people's welfare. This is the one and only way.

A truly free newspaper is a potent cultural weapon in the class struggle. It is an important instrument for the economic and cultural reconstruction of the nation. Newspapers surpass all other forms of publication in their ability to reflect political thought, and they have the largest number of readers. Hence, the basic policy, that applies to news organs, is expressed in Chairman Mao Tse-tung's words in his New Democracy, where he said, "We must develop a culture that ministers to the peoples of diverse nationality, that is scientific, and that is of the masses; a culture that is opposed to imperialism and feudalism."

In accord with these ideas, the Central People's Political Consultative Conference in Chapter V, Article 49 of the "Common Program" adopted the following principles for dealing with the publication of the news: "protect the freedom of publishing true news, develop the people's broadcasting industry, develop the people's publication business, emphasize the publication in simple language of books and papers that are devoted to the welfare of the people." -- Wei Ju

PROSCRIBED HONG KONG PAPERS RENTED BY HOUR -- Hsin-sheng Wan-pao, 20 Jan 53

Kuang-chou -- Apart from the pro-CCP Hong Kong papers, Ta Kung Pao, Wen-hui Pao, and Chou-mo Pao, whose open circulation in Kuang-chou is permitted by the Cultural Section of the Kuang-chou Military Control Commission, other Hong Kong papers, such as the Hsing-tao Pao, the Kung-shang Jih-pao, the Hua-ch'iac Jih-pao, and the Ch'eng Pao, are being smuggled into Kuang-chou to meet the desires of many people, chiefly merchants, who are dissatisfied with the monotonous sheets of the party-controlled press.

Formerly, Hong Kong papers that were not pro-CCP had a circulation in Kuang-chou of upwards of 60,000, but since the prohibition order was issued, their circulation has dropped to less than 3,000. Nevertheless, copies of the proscribed papers are being covertly sold in Kuang-chou for from 7 to 10 times their former price. Furthermore, copies are being rented to readers at the rate of from 1.00 to 1.50 Hong Kong dollars for one hour's perusal.

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